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The Freedom of Worship.

A Bill known as the Freedom of Worship bill has appeared before the New York Legislature again this winter. This is the seventh time that, in different forms the bill has been presented before the Assembly.

It seems to be a measure which the Roman Catholics are interested in more than any other society of Christians.

The direct object of some forms of the bill is to secure to persons who are in the care of charitable institutions, perfect freedom in their choice of attending religious service; or, in other words, no one shall be urged or compelled to attend any religious service not conducted by a clergyman of his own faith.

Other forms of the bill provided for the setting apart of a portion of the Public School fund for religious organizations that educate their own children in their own private schools.

The bill has failed repeatedly and will probably fail again, and the Catholic will still be obliged to educate his child at his own expense if he wishes to keep him pure from the "contamination of the Protestant common school."

The remote object of the bill is to demolish the present common school system and make it a sectarian work, at the expense of the public; and under this system the Catholic Church would have a great advantage over all other denominations in the cities, because a majority of the children are from Catholic parentage, and the Society is very diligent in gathering up orphans and children of the poor.

If each child being educated in private Catholic schools could draw his *pro rata* of the Public School funds, the money thus obtained would enable the Church to wield an immense influence which it is not now able to do; and it is a matter that should have the earnest attention of every one who loves religious liberty and freedom of thought, and should be energetically resisted wherever it may push to the front.

An Age of Wonders.

Step by step the phalanx of progress rises toward the summit of perfection. One decade ago the conservative thinker stood upon what seemed to him the pinnacle of perfection and glanced over improvements, inventions and discoveries that excelled in every respect anything that the world ever saw before; and with all the dignity of self-sufficiency he fixed the seal of maturity, and boldly proclaimed: it is finished. Notwithstanding the decisions of perfections, the power that impels to new discoveries and inventions and wonderful feats, continues undiminished, and the future may add as many great improvements upon what already exists, as we have upon what our fathers delivered to us.

A short time ago a telegraphic instrument was carried on a railroad train, and messages were sent and delivered with the same completeness that is possible between stationary instruments. One of the possibilities of the future is that travelers passing from one city to another at the rate of sixty miles an hour can hold a constant conversation with a business partner or a friend five thousand miles away.

Another late triumphant step was made in the field of surgery. A laborer in an eastern city was shot in the abdomen. Such symptoms of approaching death were manifested that the surgeons saw that something must be done at once, or death would ensue. An incision was made, and the greater part of the man's digestive organs were taken out and laid upon his breast in order to discover the wounds and remove the ball. The operation was successful, and the man is healed. Well, did Daniel, the prophet, say, that men should go to and fro, and knowledge should be increased. But amidst the whirlwind of modern progress, let the Christian beware lest he is carried from his mooring and loses the line of truth that will serve as a guide to direct him into the sphere where all knowledge and wisdom is acquired instantaneously; and where all eternity and the universe will unfold to his quickened conception.

The False Prophet Successful.

The False Prophet is a name given to an original and military character who has been operating for some time in Upper Egypt, and successfully defending himself against the troops of Egypt, and the English forces that have been sent against him.

He pretends to be the true successor of Mohammed, the the founder of the faith of Islam, the national Turkish religion, and inflames the mind of the credulous and ignorant Arab through his proclamations of a coming restoration of the power and importance of the Moslem Faith under his administration; and the success which he has attained on the field of conquest tends to confirm his claims in the minds of his untutored followers.

He, at least, is making the British Government a vast amount of trouble, and is likely to be an element in reconstructing the whole status of government and religion in a large territory of Africa, Asia and a portion of Europe.

The Moslem faith is at the side of its grave. The revolution is now under progress that will reshape the religious face of Palestine and Asia Minor. The time of the Gentiles is about fulfilled, and Jerusalem will cease to be trodden down by them; and the adventures of the False Prophet are only acts to bring about what the immutable God has decreed in the great drama of human life.

We shall watch the political and religious development in the Orient, with interest; because, in them, we shall see the fulfilling of the closing prophecies of ot the Old and New Testaments.

Unbelief.

The besetting sin is unbelief; and this sin is now as prevalent as it ever was. There are probably more people living now who believe in the New Testament, in Christ, and in an omnipotent God than there ever were before, because the doctrine is spread over a territory many times larger.

In old and established countries the besetting sin is prevailing to a wonderful degree. Even, if we may judge from the fruits, many professors really have nothbut unbelief in their hearts. Meanwhile the cry against infidelity goes on, and round after round is fired from the pulpit against the supposed enemy to righteousness—but let us stop!

Are we living epistles, known and read of all men? Does the infidel, the unbeliever, the sinner read in the deportment of the professing embassador of Christ, in his daily walk, business transactions, conversation, flaming lines of honest faith and burning zeal for his great Master? What does the calm, scrutinizing, intellectual philosophic world read in these epistles that ought to be living?

There is no good in preaching against infidelity; we must put our faith in practice. The words of the cross proceeding from the domain of a true Christian and faithful heart are irresistable. If you wish to preach effectively against unbelief, fill your heart with faith and preach the Gospel of Christ, the power of God unto salvation, and leave infidelity to look after its own interests, and it will surely die.

The Times and Educational Institutions.

The general fall in prices that this country has experienced within the last year has effected the business of educational institutions, to a greater or less xetent, as it has the various branches of business. The old and well-established institutions of the Nation perhaps, have not suffered; but, those which stand nearest to the forest where the timber of the educated people of the future is found, have keenly felt the weight of the financial disturbance, because, from that source, they derive their patronage, and this patronage was very sensibly lessened on account of the lack of means. It is safe to say that the place of the greatest danger is crossed, and the future promises prosperity, even though the prices of commodities remain the same. The times are not so unfavorable as many seem to think: the great lack is contentment. As soon as the masses adapt themselves to the new relation existing in financial affairs, the young people will be able to obtain plenty of money to prosecute their studies, and the smaller educational institutions will enjoy better patronage.

Dr. Walters comes to our help this week in a good supplement to our article of a few weeks ago on the influence exerted for good or for evil by those occupying positions of honor or authority. We are well pleased with the Doctor's article.

The Revised German Bible from the Halle Bible Revision Committee, has been given to the Church for examination. For many years Bibles were published by private individuals in that country, and they made curious changes in the text; and as a result of this a demand for the real Lutheran Bible with the modern forms of the German language developed, and the late revision aims to satisfy it.

A pastor who tries to shoulder the responsibility and work of a church himself, makes a great mistake. He will not only overwork himself, but will deprive his members from developing as they should and deriving the benefits which actual co-operation in the work affords them.

A movement similar to the free soil movement of Kansas, years ago, is now on foot in Boston to promote immigration to Utah. It is believed that such immigration to that territory could soon be made to outnumber the Mormons, and squelch polygamy.

An exploring party under orders of Gen. Miles left Portland, Oregon for Alaska. They are to follow the Copper River to headwaters and then start across the country for the headwaters of the Yukon, and descend that stream to St. Michael's. The explorers expect to be absent two years.

"Gath" in a letter to Cincinnati Enquirer, says, "When a man enters the newspaper field in New York, the first attempt is to kill him by silence. Perhaps the meanest disposition in a small portion of the public press is to apply the never-mention doctrine." It occurs to us that the above is the kind of warfare we have been subjected to from a certain quarter. But we still survive. We remember, however, that there is a difference between a battery of silence, and a silenced battery.

Bear Creek Church, Ohio.—The Ridenour Case.

I had a pleasant visit to the above church, extending from Friday to Monday last, of which I wish to contribute a brief account.

On Saturday the Church held a business meeting, which was well attended. The main business on hand was in regard to certain reports in circulation in regard to the conduct of one of their brethren. After the matter was properly before the meeting, the accused came forward and gave his confession with his explanations and promises for the future, waiving any further examination.

After due consideration and discussion the church accepted the statement, and a complete reconciliation was effected. And as the matter has been somewhat circulated, and as others outside the Bear Creek church are interested in the case, the following report was prepared and adopted by the church for publication:

WHEREAS, Certain reports of indiscretion on the part of Bro. James A. Ridenour, while laboring among the Brethren of Bethany Church, Va., have become widely circulated to the injury of the reputation of Bro. Ridenour, therefore, the Bear Creek Congregation, after a careful investigation of the case, has this day received the acknowledgement of Bro. Ridenour on the matter of the offensive writing, he freely and sadly confesses, asks pardon, and promises better for the future and in the item of indiscreet intimacy.

While from his own conviction he cannot plead guilty, he recognizes a cause for the accusation from the view of indiscretion, as held by the Brethren of the Bethany church, and that he will be more careful in the future and avoid the very appearance of evil. Therefore the church has passed the following resolution:

That we heartily accept the acknowledgment of brother J. A. Ridenour, as a full settlement of the difficulty.

We are farther authorized by the church to state to the public at large, that no charge of criminality has ever been brought against brother Ridenour, and that to the best of their knowledge he enjoys the confidence of the church.

E. S. MILLER, Elder.
M. C. KIMMEL, Sec.
H. R. HOLSINGER, Witness.

The church resolved to commence a protracted meeting from that day, by the home ministry. Bro. E. S. Miller will conduct the meetings. I preached for them on Sunday forenoon and evening, and a good interest seems to pervade the meetings. We hope much good may result from the protracted effort. The Lord bless the brethren of the Bear Creek church.

H. R. HOLSINGER.

Sleep.

There is no danger of wearing this subject threadbare, for people are beginning to wake up to the fact that plenty of sleep is requisite to the health, particularly in the case of brain workers. The more sleep the brain gets the better does the brain work. All great brain workers have been great sleepers. Sir Walter Scott could never do with less than ten hours. A fool want eight hours, as George III said, but a philosopher wants nine. The men who have been the greatest generals are the men who could sleep at will. Thus it was with both Wellington and Napoleon. The greatest speakers in the House of Commons have been the mem who could go to sleep there as much as they like. This explained the juvenility of the aged Palmerston. Sleep is in many cases the best of medicines. A friend treated himself for a fever. He went to bed with a large pitcher of lemonade by his side. He drank and slept, slept and drank, and drank himself well again. It is safe to say of any man that if he sleeps well he will do well.—Ex.

"Your strength shall be sometimes just 'to stand still.'"

"We shall never be pleased by doing all we please."

Peace is the evening star of the soul, as virtue is its sun: and the two are never very far apart. —COLTON.

Happiness is like manna. It is to be gathered in grains, and enjoyed every day; it will not keep, it can not be accumulated; nor need we go out ourselves, nor into remote places to gather it, since it has rained down from heaven at our very doors, or rather within them.